

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9744
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 7110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EG, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT WORKERS CONFEDERATION OPPOSES SADAT AFTER MEETING
EGYPTIAN LABOR LEADERS

1. THE KUWAIT WORKERS FEDERATION (KWC) ISSUED A STATEMENT
DEC. 15 CRITICAL OF SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL. THE STATEMENT
CAME AFTER DISCUSSIONS HELD HERE BETWEEN KWC LEADERS AND
VISITING OFFICIALS OF THE EGYPTIAN WORKERS FEDERATION (EWF),
LED BY MOHAMMAD SAMLAN IBRAHIM. EWF LEADERS REPORTEDLY HAD COME
TO EXPLAIN TO THE KWC WHY THE EWF WAS SUPPORTING SADAT'S
INITIATIVE WITH ISRAEL AND WHY THE EWF HAD SEVERED TIES WITH
COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS IN SYRIA, LIBYA AND IRAQ. THE
KWC STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT THE EWF LEADERS ALSO HAD ASKED
THE KWC TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THEM AND THESE THIRD COUNTRY GROUPS
(BUT DID NOT STATE THE ENVISIONED GOAL OF THE REQUESTED
MEDIATION) AND NOTED THAT THE KWC HAD REFUSED TO COMPLY
WITH THE EGYPTIANS' REQUEST, CITING THE NEED FOR ARAB
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SOLIDARITY AGAINST THE SADAT INITIATIVE. THE STATEMENT
NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE KWC LEADERS APPRECIATED THE
EGYPTIANS' VISIT AND HOPED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE
A SALUTARY EFFECT ON THE STAND OF THE EWF.

2. QUERIED ABOUT THE KWC STATEMENT, KUWAITI MINISTRY
OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT

THE KWC PRONOUNCEMENT WAS THAT OF AN "INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION," MADE WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOK. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE KWC MIGHT SING A DIFFERENT TUNE SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS GROWING OUT OF SADAT'S RAPPROCHEMENT WITH ISRAEL WARRANT IT.

3.COMMENT: WHILE THE RELATIVELY MILD KWC PRONOUNCEMENT AGAINST SADAT MAY HAVE COME AS A SURPRISE TO THE GOK, DEPARTING AS IT DID FROM THE OFFICIAL SILENCE MAINTAINED BY KUWAITI OFFICIALS ON SADAT'S TRIP, IT MAY BE CONVENIENT AT THIS TIME FOR THE GOK TO HAVE THE KUWAITI LABOR MOVEMENT SHOWING INDEPENDENCE IN A REJECTIONIST DIRECTION. THE GOK IS NORMALLY ANXIOUS TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT ITS FLANKS FROM RADICAL ARABS, AND IN THIS CASE KUWAITI LEADERS MAY SEE THE KWC POSITION AS ASSISTING THEIR POLITICAL BALANCING ACT ON CRUCIAL MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, AS BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS ET AND THE RADICALS.
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